United Nations HRI/CORE/ARM/2014

International Human Rights Instruments

Distr.: General
1 May 2014

Original: English

Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties

Armenia*

[Date received: 31 March 2014]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

GE.14-42972

1442972

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I. General information about the Republic of Armenia

A. Demographic, economic, social and cultural characteristics

1. General information

1. The Republic of Armenia (short version – Armenia) is a sovereign, democratic, social and legal State with semi-presidential system. The official language of the Republic of Armenia is Armenian, which belongs to the Indo-European language family representing a separate, independent branch. From the administrative viewpoint the Republic of Armenia is divided into 10 marzes (regions) (915 communities). The capital of the Republic of Armenia is Yerevan, which has the status of a community. The national currency of the Republic of Armenia is Dram (international indication - AMD) which has been put in circulation since 22 November 1993. The national holiday of the Republic of Armenia, the Independence Day, is on September 21.

2. Geographic details

2. The territory of the Republic of Armenia is situated at the north-eastern part of the Armenian Highlands, on the borderline of the Caucasus and Western Asia. The bordering countries of the Republic of Armenia are Georgia from the north, Azerbaijan from the east, Iran from the south, Turkey from the west and south-west.

3. The territory of the Republic of Armenia constitutes 29.743 km^2. The maximum extension of the territory from the north to south-east is 360 km, from the west to the east, 200 km. 4.8% of the territory of the country is the water reservoir, which mainly constitutes Lake Sevan.

4. Armenia is a mountainous country. It has a complex geological structure and diverse relief. 76.5% of the territory of the country is situated at 1000-2500 metres above the sea level, moreover, the lowest point above the sea level (375 metres) is in the north-east, and the highest point-the peak of Mount Aragats-has 4090 metres height.

3. Historical background

5. Armenians are one of the ancient nations in Western Asia, formed within the territory of Armenian Highland encompassing a large area between Anti-Taurus and Eastern slopes of Artsakh Mountain (Karabakh Highland). According to historians, the ancient Armenian united state of the Armenian Highland was Ayrarat Kingdom of Haykyans. In the ninth century B.C, another tribal union became powerful in the territory of the Armenian Highland which took the political supremacy into its hands establishing the state of Urartu (Assyrians called this new kingdom Urartu after the name of the Ayrarat Kingdom, though in original Urartu records the state was called Biainale or Biainele and Shurele which is relevant to nowadays accepted name - the Kingdom of Van).

6. After the fall of the state of Urartu (seventh century B.C.) the country was united into one kingdom during the reign of the Orontid Dynasty. In the fourth century B.C, the Seleucid Empire, formed on the ruins of Alexander the Great's empire, spread its dominance over Armenia for a short time. In 190 B.C. Armenia regained its independence. The founder of the Artaxiad Dynasty Artaxias [Artashes] I, as a result of several successful wars, extended the boundaries of the Kingdom of Greater Armenia (Mets Hayk) turning it into a powerful state. During the reign of Tigranes [Tigran] II the Great (95-55 B.C.) Greater Armenia became a powerful empire of Western Asia reaching the highest peak of its political power. Mainly completing the unification of Armenian lands, Tigranes II

annexed Atropatene, Seleucid Assyria, Commagene, Cilicia, Mesopotamia and other territories. The supremacy of the Armenian king was recognized not only by Judah, Nabataea, Iberian and Caucasian Albanian kingdoms, but also by the Parthian state. Arab tribes of the Persian Gulf and several tribes of Central Asia became alliance with him. During the Artaxiads the Hellenistic cultural influence on Armenia increased. However, the expansion of Rome in the East put an end to the power of Greater Armenia. At the end of the first century B.C., the Artaxiad Dynasty ultimately fell.

7. By the enthronement of Tiridates [Trdat] I (66-88) the rule of the cadet branch of the Arsacids was established in Greater Armenia. In the third and fourth centuries the Kingdom of Greater Armenia, as a result of social and economic changes, gradually turned into a feudal monarchy. In 301, during the reign of Tiridates III (286-330), Armenia became the first country that proclaimed Christianity as a state religion. Hard struggle against aspirations of Rome and Sassanid Persia weakened the Armenian Kingdom; the territory thereof was divided between the above-mentioned empires in 387. Thus in 428, the Armenian Kingdom was dissolved by the Persian court and turned into Marzpanate (province). Perfectly realising the whole danger of the situation created for the country and the people, Mesrop Mashtots, in 405 under the patronage of King Vramshapuh and Armenian Catholicos Sahak Parthev, invented Armenian current alphabet which became an unprecedented powerful weapon in preserving the national identity. The invention of Armenian alphabet opened a new era in the history of Armenian culture, science and literature.

8. In the middle of the seventh century Arab forces invaded Armenia. At the beginning of the eighth century Armenia entirely fell under the Arab rule. In 885 National liberation wars against the Arab rule came to an end with the restoration of Armenian Kingdom headed by Ashot I Bagratuni [Bagratid]. In the middle of the eleventh century the Kingdom of Bagratunis fell. After the defeat of the Byzantines by the Seljuk Turks in the decisive battle of Manazkert in 1071, Armenia was conquered by Seljuk Turks. Because of the deportation policy of the Byzantine Empire and devastating invasions of Seljuk Turks, many Armenians were forced to leave the country. Part of them settled in Cilicia, constituting the majority of its population by the end of the eleventh century. In the North-Eastern part of Cilicia, in the Mountainous Cilicia, Rubenids [Rubinyans] principality emerged in 1080, which later absorbed the whole Cilicia and a number of adjacent regions. In 1198 the Armenian Prince Leo [Levon, Leon] II Rubenid received a kingly crown from a German emperor. Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia established close relationships with the Venice, Geneva, France, Spain, Germany and other countries. However, under the blows of the Sultanate of Rum [Sultanate of Iconium] and the Mamluk Sultanate and in the conditions of lack of help from Christian Europe, the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia fell in 1375. After the fall of Cilician Armenia, Armenia, for ages, remained under the rule of foreign conquerors.

9. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Russia started the conquering of South Caucasus, including Eastern Armenia. Under the Turkmenchay treaty (1828) and Adrianople treaty (1829), the accession of South Caucasus to the Russian Empire was mainly completed. In 1828 "Armenian Marz" (Region) was temporarily formed on the territories of the former Yerevan and Nakhichevan Khanates (Iranian provinces) which later became the basis of the rebuilt Armenian statehood. As a result of incorporation into the Russian Empire, the restoration of national self-consciousness and the development of capitalist relations in Armenia were accelerating.

10. In 1878, after the Congress of Berlin, the Armenian Question – the issue of physical security of Armenians inhabiting in the Ottoman Empire, became a subject of discussions of European diplomacy. The Armenian question became the integral part of so-called Eastern Question and played an important role in the international relations. This

circumstance and the activation of Armenian liberation movement in 1895-1896 led to massacres of Armenians in Western Armenia organised by the government of Abdul Hamid II. As a result more than 300 thousand Armenians were perished.

11. Taking advantage of the situation resulting in the First World War, the Young Turks government planned and carried out the genocide of Armenians inhabiting in the territory of the Ottoman Empire. Within the period of 1915-1923 nearly one and a half of more than two million Armenians were killed, and the rest were either forcibly converted to Islam or found a refuge in different countries of the world. Western Armenia was deprived of its native Armenian population.

12. In May 1918, taking advantage of the revolutionary processes taking place in the Russian Empire, Armenia declared itself independent. The newly created republic existed only two years: in December 1920, the Russian Red Army entered Armenia and established the Soviet rule. Later on Soviet Armenia incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

13. In 1921, under the Russian-Turkish treaty of Moscow and the Treaty of Kars of the same year (between Turkey and Transcaucasian Soviet Republics) Nakhichevan became an autonomous region under the patronage of Azerbaijan. Moreover, on 15 July 1921, the Caucasian Bureau of the Russian Communist Workers' Party (RCWP), without observing the procedure rules and without having relevant legal powers, took a decision by which Nagorno-Karabakh was declared an autonomous region within Azerbaijan. In case of both decisions the historical, ethnic and cultural inextricable connections with Armenia were ignored. It should be emphasised that the territorial demands represented by Azerbaijan were deprived of legal grounds. The brightest evidence of this assertion was the decision of the League of Nations by which the application of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic to become a member of the League of Nations was dismissed. As a ground for the dismissal served the fact that Azerbaijan was not a de jure recognized State with internationally recognized borders[1] and did not have a de facto control over the territories it claimed.[2]

14. Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan, being illegally transferred into the subordination of Azerbaijan SSR, were regularly subject to the policy of ethnic cleansing of Armenians and destruction of Armenian cultural heritage. In this regard, Nakhichevan especially suffered which was entirely wiped out of Armenians.

Table 1. Demographics of the Nakhichevan uyezd (district) and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (1897-1989)

	Population (per 1000 persons) of Nakhichevan uyezd according to 1897 Russian Empire census	*Population of the Nakhichevan ASSR (per 1000 persons) according to 1926 USSR census*	*Population of the Nakhichevan ASSR (per 1000 persons) according to 1959 USSR census*	*Population of the Nakhichevan ASSR (per 1000 persons) according to 1970 USSR census*	*Population of the Nakhichevan ASSR (per 1000 persons) according to 1989 USSR census*
Total	**100.8 (100%)**	**104.9 (100%)**	**141.4 (100%)**	**202.2 (100%)**	**293.9 (100%)**
Armenian	34.7 (34.4%)	11.276 (10.7%)	9.5 (6.7%)	5.8 (2.9%)	1.9 (0.6%)
Tatars (Azerbaijanis)	64.1 (63.7%)	88.433 (84.3%)	127.5 (90.2%)	189.7 (93.8%)	281.8 (95.9%)

[1] League of Nations, Memorandum by the Secretary-General on the Application for the Admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the League of Nations, Assembly Document 20/48/108.

[2] Letter from the President of the Peace Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, M. Allsoptcasbacheff, to H.E. Paul Hymans, President of the First Assembly of the League of Nations, December 7 1920, Ref. No. 20/48/206.

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Others	1.9 (0.9%)	5.2 (5%)	4.4 (3.1%)	6.7 (3.3%)	10.2 (3.5%)

Table 2. Demographics of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (1970–1989)

	Population (in 1000 persons) according to 1970 USSR census	*Population (in 1000 persons) according to 1989 USSR census*	*Estimated growth in population in 1000 persons), 1970-1989*	*Real growth in population (in 1000 persons), 1970-1989*	*Difference between real and estimated growth (in 1000 persons)*
Total	150.3	189.0	75.0	44.7	- 30.3
Armenian	121.1	146.4	60.0	25.3	- 34.7
Azerbaijanis	27.2	40.6	13.5	13.5	0
Russian	1.3	1.4	-	-	- 0.1
Others	0.7	0.5	-	-	-

15. Soviet Armenia was not a sovereign State, but it played a very important role in the preservation of the Armenian statehood and development of the national identity. Armenia became a leading industrial-agrarian country, a State of universal literacy, developed science and education, culture, literature and art. The Armenian people took an active participation in WWII. About 440,000 Armenian soldiers and officers fought in the ranks of Soviet Army. The Armenian National Eighty-ninth Division took part in the battle for Berlin. During the years following the end of the Second World War, a great number of Armenians from the Diaspora returned to their homeland. In 1960-1980s the national issues such as the Armenian Genocide, Diaspora, unification of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, Nakhichevan, etc. were repeatedly raised by intellectuals and the public, as well as by the republic's leadership. The first multi-thousand demonstrations in the Soviet reality were taking place in Yerevan.

16. At the end of 1980s the policy of Perestroika (Reconstruction) conducted by Mikhail Gorbachev created favourable conditions for raising the question of Nagorno-Karabakh. On 20 February 1988, the extraordinary session of the Regional Council of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), in compliance with the Constitution of the USSR, took a decision to apply to the Supreme Councils of the Azerbaijani SSR, the Armenian SSR and the USSR with a motion to withdraw the Oblast from Azerbaijan and transfer it to Armenia. As a respond to the initiated process, violent massacres of the population were carried out in Sumgait (February 1988), Baku (January 1990) and other places of residence of Azerbaijan SSR mostly populated with Armenians. As a result of such a policy hundreds of thousands of Armenians had to abandon their places of residence, thus becoming refugees.

17. Based on the provisions of the Declaration on Independence of Armenia (23 August 1990), the Supreme Council, on 21 September 1991, decided to hold a referendum on the matter of seceding from the USSR and becoming independent. On 23 September 1991, the Supreme Council, based on the results of the referendum, declared Armenia an independent State. In 1995, the Constitution was adopted which was amended in 2005.

18. Being guided by international norms and the USSR laws that still existed at that period of time, the population of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the establishment of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) by plebiscite of 10 December 1991. However, the

policy of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Azerbaijani authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent areas populated with Armenians escalated into an obvious aggression and extensive military actions by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result of the war, Azerbaijan occupied a part of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the adjacent regions were transferred to the control of the Armed Forces of Nagorno-Karabakh which acted as security buffers blocking the further artillery bombardment of settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan.

19. In May 1994, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia signed a ceasefire, which, despite violations, is still effective. Currently, the Republic of Armenia attaches special significance to the issues of peaceful settlement of the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh and recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh people's right to self-determination. The negotiation process over the settlement of the problem proceeds with the mediation of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group co-chairs (Russia, the United States of America and France). Currently the negotiations proceed on the basis of Madrid proposals submitted by co-chair countries in November 2007. The leaders of Minsk Group co-chair countries regularly make statements emphasising the three principles of international law - non-use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity, and the equal rights and self-determination of peoples - as the key principles for peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict[3].

20. Conditioned upon the existence of historic memory on the Armenian Genocide, the Republic of Armenia consistently fights towards the prevention of the crime of genocide and the elimination of consequences of such crimes. One of the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Armenia is the universal recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide. Armenia considers that not only from the viewpoint of restoration of historical justice and establishing supremacy of international law, but also within the context of the improvement of the atmosphere of mutual trust in the region and the prevention of such crimes in the future. The Armenian Genocide has been recognised by laws, decisions, resolutions of a large number of States and international organisations. The complete list of all documents categorizing the 1915-23 widespread massacre of the Armenian population in Ottoman Empire as a premeditated and thoroughly executed act of genocide, is extensive (see the whole list here http://www.genocide-museum.am).

21. Armenia, within the scope of the UN, has constantly undertaken initiatives on the prevention of genocide. As a result of those initiatives the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted resolutions "On the 50th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," in 1998, "On the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide" in 1999 and 2001. In 2008, the resolution "On the prevention of genocide" was adopted by the Human Rights Council. In 22 March 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a new resolution "On the prevention of genocide", which was submitted by Armenia and co-sponsored by 62 countries. This resolution gave a new quality to the policy conducted by the international society towards the prevention of genocide.

22. Since 1993, the main obstacle for the development of Armenia has been the blockade carried out by Azerbaijan and Turkey which is a violation of international norms. Each year the economy of Armenia suffers substantial damages resulting from the blockade.

[3] For more information on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, see http://mfa.am/en/artsakh/.

4. Demographic indicators

Table 3. Population of the Republic of Armenia based on census data from 2001 and 2011

	Current population		*Permanent population*	
	2001	*2011*	*2001*	*2011*
Total	**3 002 594**	**2 871 771**	**3 213 011**	**3 018 854**
Yerevan city	1 091 235	1 054 698	1 103 488	1 060 138
Aragatsotn	126 278	125 539	138 301	132 925
Ararat	252 665	246 880	272 016	260 367
Armavir	255 861	256 639	276 233	265 770
Gegharkunik	215 371	211 828	237 650	235 075
Lori	253 351	217 103	286 408	235 537
Kotayk	241 337	245 324	272 469	254 397
Shirak	257 242	233 308	283 389	251 941
Syunik	134 061	119 873	152 684	141 771
Vayots Dzor	53 230	47 659	55 997	52 324
Tavush	121 963	112 920	134 376	128 609

Table 4. Urban and rural distribution of current and permanent population of the Republic of Armenia, according to census data from 2001 and 2011

	Current population			*Permanent population*		
	Total	*urban*	*rural*	*Total*	*urban*	*rural*
2011 (in persons)	2 871 771	1 847 124	1 024 647	3 018 854	1 911 287	1 107 567
2011 (in per cent)	100	64,3	35,7	100	63,3	36,7
2001 (in persons)	3 002 594	1 945 514	1 057 080	3 213 011	2 066 153	1 146 858
2001 (in per cent)	100	64,8	35,2	100	63,3	36,7

23. The number of permanent population of the Republic of Armenia is 3,026,900 as of 1 January 2013.

24. The average annual rate growth of the permanent population of the Republic of Armenia in 2001-2011 was -0.6 %.

25. The population density of the Republic of Armenia is 102 per sq. kilometre.

Table 5. Distribution of the permanent population of the Republic of Armenia based on nationalities and native languages, according to census data from 2001

		Native language				
Nationality	*Total*	*Armenian*	*Yezidi language*	*Russian*	*Ukrainian*	*Other languages*
Armenians	3 145 354	3 128 490	391	14 728	88	1657
Yezidis	40 620	5 278	31 310	230	0	3802
Russians	14 660	1 666	0	12 905	21	68

Nationality	Total	Native language				
		Armenian	Yezidi language	Russian	Ukrainian	Other languages
Ukrainians	1 633	291	0	629	692	21
Other	10 744	3 427	98	1 071	17	6131
Total	**3 213 011**	**3 139 152**	**31 799**	**29 563**	**818**	**11 679**

Table 6. Distribution of the permanent population of the Republic of Armenia based on religion, according to census data from 2011

Religion	The number of people
Total, considering themselves followers of any religion, church or direction	**2 897 267**
From which:	
Armenian Apostolic	2 797 187
Catholic	13 996
Orthodox	7 587
Nestorian	1 733
Evangelical	29 280
Jehovah's Witness	8 695
Protestant	773
Mormon	241
Molokan	2 874
Sharfadin	23 374
Pagan	5 416
Muslim	812
Other	5 299
Not considering themselves followers of any religion, church or direction	34 373
Have refused to answer	10 941
Not mentioned	76 273

Table 7. Age composition of the population of the Republic of Armenia according to census data from 2001 and 2011 (per cent)

Age group	2011 census	2001 census
0-14	18.7 %	24.3 %
15-64	70.8 %	66.0 %
65 and higher	10.5 %	9.7 %

Table 8. Age and sex composition of the population of the Republic of Armenia as at 1 January 2013 (per cent)

Age group	Women (%)	Men (%)
0-4	6.3	7.7
5-9	5.5	6.9
10-14	5.1	6.4

Age group	*Women (%)*	*Men (%)*
15-19	6.6	7.6
20-24	9.2	9.7
25-29	9.1	9.3
30-34	7.6	7.8
35-39	6.4	6.3
40-44	6.0	5.7
45-49	6.7	6.3
50-54	8.0	7.5
55-59	6.5	5.9
60-64	4.8	4.1
65-69	2.7	2.1
70-74	3.6	2.7
75-79	3.0	2.2
80+	2.9	1.8

Table 9. Fertility and mortality statistics in the Republic of Armenia (per 1000 persons)

Years	*The total fertility rate*	*The total mortality rate*
2007	12.4	8.3
2008	12.7	8.5
2009	13.7	8.5
2010	13.8	8.6
2011	13.3	8.6

Table 10. Life expectancy in the Republic of Armenia

Years	*Male*	*Female*	*Total male and female*
2007	70.2	76.6	73.5
2008	70.4	76.9	73.8
2009	70.6	77.0	73.9
2010	70.6	77.2	74.1
2011	70.7	77.5	74.2

Table 11. Fertility rate in the Republic of Armenia (total fertility rate per female)

Years	*Total in the Republic of Armenia*
2007	1.417
2008	1.444
2009	1.551
2010	1.556
2011	1.499

Table 12. Statistics on households in the Republic of Armenia

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
The average number of household members (based on permanent residents) (per person)		4.1	4.1	4	4.1	3.9
The share of female led households (per cent)		31.8	31	31.2	30.7	30.9
The share of male led household (per cent)		68.2	69	68.8	69.3	69.1
The relative density of children living with one parent in all households based on the sex of the head of household	woman	...	...	...	1.9	1.5
	man	...	...	...	0.2	0.2

5. Social, economic and cultural indicators

Table 13. Structure of nominal consumer expenditure of households in the Republic of Armenia in 2007-2011

	The average monthly per capita of household									
	AMD					In per cent				
Expenditure	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Consumer expenditures	26297	28878	27667	28646	32585	100	100	100	100	100
including										
food	14080	14984	14145	14844	17184	53.5	51.9	51.1	51.8	52.7
from which										
food out of the house	496	449	389	452	434	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.3
buying alcoholic drinks	236	227	238	272	245	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8
buying cigarettes	975	1019	1035	1009	1123	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.4
non-food goods	4113	4730	4294	4439	5022	15.6	16.4	15.5	15.5	15.4
services	6893	7918	7955	8082	9011	26.2	27.4	28.8	28.2	27.7
including										
healthcare	1248	1035	888	1136	686	4.7	3.6	3.2	4.0	2.1
education	1156	1221	833	141	167	4.4	4.2	3.0	0.5	0.5
housing and utility	2059	2635	2950	3008	3567	7.8	9.1	10.7	10.5	10.9
transport	782	967	1101	906	1003	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.2	3.1
communication	966	1404	1285	1424	1570	3.7	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.8
culture	4	3	4	4	12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
legal	12	16	15	121	92	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3
other services	666	637	879	1342	1914	2.5	2.2	3.2	4.7	6.0

Table 14. Dynamics of poverty indicators in 2004 and 2008-2011 (per cent)

Years	Poor	Including Very poor	From which Extremely poor	Not poor

Years	*Poor*	*Including Very poor*	*From which Extremely poor*	*Not poor*
2004	53.5	32.6	4.4	46.5
2008	27.6	12.6	1.6	72.4
2009	34.1	20.1	3.6	65.9
2010	35.8	21.3	3.0	64.2
2011	35.0	19.9	3.7	65.0

Table 15. Poverty indicators based on sex and age group in 2008–2011 (per cent)

	2008		*2009*		*2010*		*2011*	
Sex and age groups	*Extremely poor*	*Poor*	*Extremely poor*	*Poor*	*Extremely poor*	*Poor*	*Extremely poor*	*Poor*
Female	1.7	27.3	3.7	34.2	3.1	35.9	3.7	34.5
Male	1.6	27.8	3.6	34.0	2.9	35.6	3.7	35.5
Aged 0-5	1.9	32.0	4.9	39.6	3.4	42.7	4.4	45.3
Aged 6-9	1.8	30.3	4.6	40.5	4.0	44.1	4.7	42.2
Aged 10-14	1.5	29.7	3.9	36.2	3.2	37.6	4.5	39.1
Aged 15-17	2.3	32.4	4.8	37.5	4.5	41.4	4.7	40.1
Aged 18-19	0.7	26.1	3.8	32.5	3.7	35.3	5.3	33.7
Aged 20-24	1.3	26.0	3.7	33.1	3.2	34.9	3.4	33.6
Aged 25-29	2.1	27.0	3.4	34.0	3.0	36.5	3.7	37.1
Aged 30-34	1.1	25.7	4.4	35.6	2.8	38.0	4.1	38.8
Aged 35-39	1.9	27.6	3.2	34.4	2.7	34.6	4.5	36.2
Aged 40-44	1.9	29.3	2.8	31.2	2.8	36.7	3.8	34.8
Aged 45-49	1.9	25.7	3.3	32.4	2.7	31.1	3.0	30.3
Aged 50-54	1.2	22.2	2.8	31.6	2.8	31.9	3.2	29.5
Aged 55-59	0.7	21.7	4.3	30.8	2.5	33.3	3.4	32.5
Aged 60-64	1.3	24.8	2.8	27.6	2.1	28.2	1.6	27.5
Aged 65+	2.0	29.5	2.9	33.9	2.5	33.4	2.8	30.8
Total	**1.6**	**27.5**	**3.6**	**34.1**	**3.0**	**35.8**	**3.7**	**35.0**

Table 16. Share (per cent) of the population receiving fewer than 2,100 kilocalories per day in the energy food consumed per capita

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
National average	46.4	44.5	52.7	59.7	55.5

Table 17. Inequality of consumption and income in 2008–2011

	Consumption				*Income*			
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Gini coefficient	0.242	0.257	0.265	0.267	0.339	0.355	0.362	0.371

Table 18. Coefficients of infant mortality in the Republic of Armenia (per 1000 quick-born)

Years	*Coefficient of infant mortality*
2007	10.9
2008	10.8
2009	10.4
2010	11.4
2011	11.6

Table 19. Coefficients of maternal mortality in the Republic of Armenia (per 100,000 quick-born)

Years	*Coefficient of maternal mortality*
2007	15.0
2008	38.8
2009	27.0
2010	8.9
2011	13.8

Table 20. Contagious diseases recorded in the Republic of Armenia in 2008–2012

	Total (in person)					*Therefrom 0-14 years old (in person)*				
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
Typhoid	11	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid A, B, C	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Salmonella infections	385	451	391	373	460	231	223	239	199	282
Acute intestine infection	5767	5666	7666	7893	8352	3852	3950	5771	5859	6421
Dysentery bacteria carrier	22	13	18	8	8	8	4	13	1	5
Tularemia	-	1	5	6	1	-	-	1	1	-
Anthrax, Siberian plague	2	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Primary brucellosis revealed	289	346	295	260	226	24	33	32	18	8
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	3	11	4	1	8	3	11	4	1	8
Parapertussis	21	26	15	8	18	20	23	14	7	18
Meningococcal disease	17	16	14	6	8	13	12	10	6	8
Tetanus	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
AIDS	83	82	95	87	133	-	2	2	1	-
HIV	136	149	148	182	226	-	3	4	2	4
Acute flaccid paralysis	18	9	13	20	29	18	9	13	20	29

	Total (in person)					Therefrom 0-14 years old (in person)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Measles	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viral hepatitis	1 043	826	548	295	227	459	337	173	57	31
Hydrophobia	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Infectious mononucleosis	140	192	263	364	411	84	129	165	259	319
Parotitis	98	71	38	16	6	80	54	31	12	5
Rikcettsias	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary malaria revealed	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	1
Leptospirosis	3	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper respiratory infection	94580	191541	108229	113404	113748	62842	126364	73886	81830	82360
Flue/ influenza	198	293	55	9	-	77	102	16	6	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	1 135	1 260	1 071	934	897	50	24	28	11	3
Syphilis	5	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonococcal infection (Gonorrhea)	20	23	16	24	26	-	-	-	2	-
Scab	312	336	266	222	144	119	119	116	96	66
Pediculosis/ lousiness	2487	1410	830	565	272	2447	1365	803	552	252
Leishmaniosis	4	14	9	6	4	4	11	8	5	4

Table 21. Mortality rate in the Republic of Armenia, by main causes of death

	The number of deceased (per 100 000 persons)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
From infectious and parasitic diseases	7.6	8.6	8.6	9.3	7.7
From neoplasms	161.8	170.2	166.9	169.4	170.5
From diseases of the endocrine system	42.7	42.3	44.3	44.3	42.9
From blood and hematopoietic organs diseases	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6
From mental disorders	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
From diseases of the circulatory system	418.5	423.0	417.0	419.4	407.4
From respiratory diseases	58.7	55.4	55.0	50.8	52.1
From diseases of digestive system	43.3	47.0	50.0	49.8	54.0
From congenital malformation	4.9	6.1	9.6	12.5	14.3
From the state caused from perinatal period	7.6	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.8
From deviations of symptoms, signs and standards	25.3	23.5	24.4	24.8	27.8
External causes of death	38.7	40.9	37.7	38.4	41.7
Other reasons	21.4	23.5	29.6	32.0	29.5
Total number of deceased	**831.6**	**847.6**	**849.7**	**857.5**	**855.5**

Table 22. Gross enrolment (per cent) of pupils in public elementary schools in the Republic of Armenia

	Total	*Girls*	*Boys*
2007	93.2	93.5	92.9
2008	95.5	96.2	94.9
2009	96.1	96.3	95.9
2010	96.8	97.4	96.4
2011	99.0	99.6	98.4

Table 23. Gross enrolment (per cent) of pupils in public schools in the Republic of Armenia

	Total	*Girls*	*Boys*
2007	89.2	90.4	88.2
2008	90.8	92.1	89.6
2009	90.2	91.7	88.9
2010	90.1	91.8	88.6
2011	86.3	88.5	84.4

Table 24. Number of pupils having left public schools/not having finished their education in the Republic of Armenia at the beginning of the year

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Total	**3 206**	**5 876**	**5 480**	**5 914**	**758**
Boys	1 913	3 537	3 368	3 492	502
Girls	1 293	2 339	2 112	2 422	256

Table 25. Correlation between the number of students and the number of teachers in the State educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia (number of students per teacher)

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Preschool institutions	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.6	12.3
General educational institutions	10.4	9.9	9.6	9.1	9.4
Primary vocational (handicraft) educational institutions	7.1	7.3	7.2	6.8	5.3
Middle-level vocational educational institutions	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.0	7.7
Higher professional educational institutions	8.8	9.3	9.3	8.8	7.5

26. The literacy rate in the Republic of Armenia amounted to 99.4% according to census data from 2001.

Table 26. Unemployment rate in the Republic of Armenia, by sex and age group

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Total	**16.4**	**18.7**	**19.0**	**18.4**
15-24	36.5	40.9	38.9	39.2
25-34	17.9	22.1	21.4	21.0
35-44	12.9	15.8	15.4	14.4
45-54	12.0	14.1	15.3	13.3
55-64	13.1	11.1	13.5	15.9
65-75	4.1	5.4	5.7	6.2
Male	14.4	17.8	17.0	17.3
15-24	32.0	36.0	31.9	34.9
25-34	15.7	19.5	18.9	18.8
35-44	10.8	14.6	13.7	14.4
45-54	7.9	13.5	13.5	10.7
55-64	12.3	11.9	12.4	15.6
65-75	5.8	7.6	7.5	8.6
Female	18.6	19.9	21.2	19.6
15-24	43.2	47.1	48.0	44.9
25-34	21.1	26.1	25.1	23.8
35-44	14.8	16.9	17.1	14.5
45-54	15.9	14.7	17.1	15.6
55-64	14.1	10.3	14.5	16.2
65-75	2.5	3.2	3.7	3.6

Table 27. Employment in the Republic of Armenia, by type of economic activity and sex (in 1,000 persons)

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Total	**1183.1**	**1152.8**	**1185.2**	**1175.1**
Agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, fish breeding	445.3	454.8	457.4	457.4
Industry	129.5	114.5	120.6	128.7
Construction	105.1	82.4	85.8	67.4
Trade, repair of cars, hotels and restaurants	121.2	110.0	128.4	123.9
Transport and communication	61.9	64.5	70.6	65.8
Financial activity, operations related to the real estate renting and providing services to the consumers	29.5	22.5	43.5	40.7
State management, education, healthcare, provision of individual social services	229.2	246.0	235.0	242.8
Other services	61.4	58.1	43.9	48.5
Male	644.8	617.3	644.8	610.9
Agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, fish breeding	197.7	209.9	202.4	200.5
Industry	93.3	87.1	89.9	93.4

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Construction	102.4	80.7	84.6	66.0
Trade, repair of cars, hotels and restaurants	68.0	58.9	76.5	67.5
Transport and communication	51.1	54.0	57.1	52.4
Financial activity, operations related to the real estate renting and providing services to the consumers	19.0	11.5	22.0	23.9
State management, education, health, providing social individual services	78.3	83.2	89.4	83.5
Other services	35.0	32.0	22.9	23.8
Female	538.3	535.5	540.4	564.2
Agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, fish breeding	247.5	244.9	255.0	256.9
Industry	36.2	27.4	30.7	35.3
Construction	2.7	1.7	1.1	1.3
Trade, repair of cars, hotels and restaurants	53.2	51.1	52.0	56.4
Transport and communication	10.7	10.5	13.5	13.4
Financial activity, operations related to the real estate, renting and provision of services to the consumers	10.6	11.1	21.5	16.8
State management, education, healthcare, provision of individual social services	150.9	162.9	145.6	159.2
Other services	26.4	26.0	21.0	24.7

Table 28. Informal employment in the Republic of Armenia, by sex and sector (in 1,000 workplaces)

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total	**629.4**	**621.7**	**623.8**	**610.4**
Agricultural sector	464.8	480.9	494.5	482.7
Non-agricultural sector	164.6	140.8	129.4	127.7
Male	328.0	326.4	315.4	306.8
Agricultural sector	207.9	223.8	219.5	213.2
Non-agricultural sector	120.1	102.7	95.9	93.6
Female	301.4	295.3	308.4	303.6
Agricultural sector	256.9	257.2	274.9	269.5
Non-agricultural sector	44.5	38.1	33.5	34.1

Table 29. Informal employment in the Republic of Armenia, by sex and age group (in 1,000 workplaces)

	2010	2011
Total	**623.8**	**610.4**
15-24	63.4	55.1
25-34	101.4	96.2
35-44	132.0	116.0
45-54	174.5	177.5

	2010	2011
55-64	89.2	97.7
65-75	63.2	67.9
Male	315.4	306.8
15-24	41.2	36.5
25-34	59.2	56.5
35-44	60.2	49.9
45-54	83.3	82.6
55-64	42.0	48.5
65-75	29.4	32.8
Female	308.4	303.6
15-24	22.2	18.6
25-34	42.2	39.6
35-44	71.8	66.1
45-54	91.2	91.9
55-64	47.2	49.2
65-75	33.8	35.1

Table 30. Main microeconomic indicators of the Republic of Armenia

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
GDP per capita (USD)	3606.1	2666.1	2844.0	3,363.2	3,290.3
Nominal GDP (million drams)	3,568,227.6	3,141,651.0	3,460,202.7	3,777,945.6	3,997,630.8
Nominal GDP (million US dollars)	11,662.0	8,648.0	9,260.3	10,142.1	9,950.3
Growth of real GDP	6.9	(14.1)	2.2	4.7	7.2
Gross national income (million dollars)	3,712,396.9	3,201,951.8	3,586,735.3	3,986,001.7	4,250,157.1
Inflation (as of the end of the time period)%	5.2	6.5	9.4	4.7	3.2

27. In 2012, consumer price index in the Republic of Armenia amounted to 102.6% as compared to 2011.

Table 31. State debt of the Republic of Armenia in 2008–2012

	Billion AMD					Million USD				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
State debt	584.6	1,275.5	1,382.9	1,595.0	1,764.5	1,906.0	3,375.3	3,805.1	4,134.7	4,372.1
Including external State debt	483.7	1,121.1	1,199.5	1,376.9	1,509.0	1,577.2	2,966.8	3,300.1	3,569.3	3,739.1
Internal State debt	100.9	154.4	183.4	218.1	255.5	328.8	408.5	504.6	565.4	633.0

Table 32. Allocations from the State budget of the Republic of Armenia in 2009–2012 for social expenditures (million drams)

	2009			*2010*		
	Actual State budget	*Social expenditures of the Actual State budget (%)*	*Actual State budget of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Social expenditures of the Actual State budget (%)*	*Actual State budget of (3,501,637.8) the GDP (%)*
Total expenditures	929,108.6	100.0%	29.6%	954,316.5	100.0%	27.6%
including						
Social expenditures	407,331.9	43.8%	13.0%	398,089.4	41.7%	11.5%
Healthcare	56,168.8	6.0%	1.8%	56,130.8	5.9%	1.6%
Education	107,529.0	11.6%	3.4%	97,790.1	10.2%	2.8%
Social protection	243,634.1	26.2%	7.8%	244,168.5	25.6%	7.1%

	2011			*2012*		
	Actual State budget	*Social expenditures of the Actual State budget (%)*	*Actual State budget of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Social expenditures of the Actual State budget (%)*	*Actual State budget of (3,501,637.8) the GDP (%)*
Total expenditures	986,509.2	100.0%	26.1%	1,006,102.2	100.0%	25.2%
including						
Social expenditures	425,573.1	43.1%	11.3%	459,014.1	45.6%	11.5%
Healthcare	63,312.4	6.4%	1.7%	64,499.0	6.4%	1.6%
Education	106,085.0	10.8%	2.8%	102,783.5	10.2%	2.6%
Social protection	256,1076.3	25.9%	6.8%	291,731.6	29.0%	7.3%

Table 33. Expenditures of the Republic of Armenia carried out through foreign assistance (in million drams)

	2009				*2010*			
	Actual State budget	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out by the foreign assistance of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,501,637.8) the GDP(%)*
Total expenditures	929,108.6	106,161.81	1.43%	3.42%	954,316.5	99,333.9	10.4%	2.84%
including								
General public services	113,006.6	1,282.44	1.13%	0.04%	143,280.5	1,513.8	1.1%	0.04%
Defence	130,211.5	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	147,555.9	0.00	0.0%	0.00%
Public order, security and judicial activities	69,463.8	2,865.62	4.13%	0.09%	67,443.1	2,385.25	3.5%	0.07%
Economic relations	133,835.1	83,597.47	62.46%	2.69%	112,451.7	73,576.36	65.4%	2.10%

	2009				2010			
	Actual State budget	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out by the foreign assistance of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,501,637.8) the GDP(%)*
Environmental protection	3,913.3	1,287.92	32.91%	0.04%	4,926.1	2,563.24	52.0%	0.07%
Housing construction and utility services	21,105.9	10,505.27	49.77%	0.34%	42,817.9	11,645.95	27.2%	0.33%
Healthcare	56,168.8	4,616.87	8.22%	0.15%	56,130.8	4,874.01	8.7%	0.14%
Leisure, culture and religion	16,297.7	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	16,102.6	79.77	0.5%	0.00%
Education	107,529.0	1,782.49	1.66%	0.06%	97,790.1	2,566.91	2.6%	0.07%
Social protection	243,634.1	223.73	0.09%	0.01%	244,168.5	128.64	0.1%	0.00%
Reserve funds not included in main sections	33,943.0	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	21,649.4	0.00	0.0%	0.00%

	2011				2012			
	Actual State budget	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,501,637.8) the GDP (%)*
Total expenditures	986,509.2	73,719.0	7.5%	1.95%	1,006,102.2	58,241.6	5.8%	1.46%
including								
General public services	154,107.9	1,873.1	1.2%	0.05%	160,488.8	2,454.5	1.5%	0.06%
Defence	145,491.0	0.00	0.0%	0.00%	152,766.8	0.00	0.0%	0.00%
Public order, security and judicial activities	72,517.1	2,3665	3.3%	0.06%	76,668.6	1,285.4	1.7%	0.03%
economic relations	83,955.7	49,275.63	58.7%	1.30%	71,086.7	32,110.6	45.2%	0.80%
Environmental protection	6,630.4	2,225.81	33.6%	0.06%	7,032.2	3,341.8	47.5%	0.08%
Housing construction and utility services	43,848.5	12,081.39	27.6%	0.32%	14,303.5	8,279.6	57.9%	0.21%
Healthcare	63,312.4	3,669.09	5.8%	0.10%	64,499.0	4,598.6	7.1%	0.12%
Leisure, culture and religion	17,581.4	40.77	0.2%	0.00%	22,821.8	3,447.5	15.1%	0.09%
Education	106,085.0	2,080.66	2.0%	0.06%	102,783.5	2,179.0	2.1%	0.05%
Social protection	256,176.3	109.95	0.0%	0.00%	291,731.6	544.6	0.2%	0.01%

	2011				2012			
	Actual State budget	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,102,815.1) the GDP (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance*	*%*	*Expenditures carried out through foreign assistance of (3,501,637.8) the GDP (%)*
Reserve funds not included in main sections	36,803.5	0.00	0.0%	0.00%	41,919.7	0.00	0.0%	0.00%

B. Constitutional, political and legal structure of the Republic of Armenia

28. The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia was adopted by a national referendum held on 5 July 1995. Amendments in line with generally recognised norms of international law were made to the Constitution through a referendum on 27 November 2005. The fifth of July is marked as Constitution Day in the Republic of Armenia.

29. According to the Constitution, the Republic of Armenia is a sovereign, democratic, social, State governed by rule of law in which the people shall exercise their power through free elections, referenda, as well as through state and local self-government bodies and officials provided for by the Constitution (arts. 1-2). Article 5 of the Constitution enshrines that State power shall be exercised in conformity with the Constitution and the laws, based on the separation and balance of the legislative, executive and judicial powers.

30. The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia has supreme legal force, and its norms apply directly. Laws must be in compliance with the Constitution. Other legal acts must be in compliance with the Constitution and laws.

31. International treaties ratified or approved by the Republic of Armenia are an integral part of the legal system of the Republic of Armenia and shall have prevalence over the laws of the Republic of Armenia, while international treaties contradicting the Constitution simply may not be ratified (art. 6).

32. The President of the Republic is the head of the State shall oversee the observance of the Constitution, shall ensure the natural functioning of legislative, executive and judicial powers. The President of the Republic shall be the guarantor of independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Armenia.

33. The President of the Republic shall be elected by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia for a term of five years. Everyone who has attained the age of thirty-five, has been a citizen of the Republic of Armenia for the preceding ten years, has been permanently residing in the Republic in the preceding ten years and has the right of suffrage may be elected as President of the Republic. The same person may not be elected to the office of the President of the Republic for more than two consecutive terms.

34. The powers of the President of the Republic of Armenia are enshrined by article 55 of the Constitution. The President of the Republic of Armenia shall sign and promulgate the laws passed by the National Assembly, shall dissolve the National Assembly in cases provided for by the Constitution and call early elections, and shall – on the basis of distribution of seats in the National Assembly and consultations with deputy factions – appoint a Prime Minister. The President shall appoint and remove the members of the Government upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister. He or she is the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, shall represent the Republic of Armenia in international relations, carry out the general administration of

foreign policy, sign international treaties, submit international treaties to the National Assembly for ratification and sign the instruments of ratification thereof, shall approve, suspend or revoke international treaties not requiring ratification.

35. In the Republic of Armenia, the legislative power shall be exercised by the National Assembly, which shall comprise one hundred and thirty-one deputies. The National Assembly shall be elected for a term of five years. Everyone having attained the age of twenty-five, having been a citizen of the Republic of Armenia for the preceding five years, having been permanently residing in the Republic in the preceding five years and having the right of suffrage may be elected as a deputy. The right of legislative initiative before the National Assembly belongs to the deputies and the Government.

36. The National Assembly shall approve the State Budget upon submission by the Government. The National Assembly shall oversee the State Budget performance, as well as the use of loans and credits received from foreign states and international organisations. Upon the recommendation of the President of the Republic, the National Assembly shall declare amnesty, ratify, suspend or revoke the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, make a decision on declaring a war and establishing peace. In case of no possibility to convene a sitting of the National Assembly, the President of the Republic shall determine the issue of declaring a war. The National Assembly may pass a motion of non-confidence against the Government by a majority of votes of the total number of deputies.

37. Ideological pluralism and multi-party system are recognised by the Constitution in the Republic of Armenia. Political parties shall be formed freely and shall contribute to the formation and expression of the political will of the people. Their activities may not contradict the Constitution and laws, and their practice may not contradict the principles of democracy.

38. According to article 103 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia, the elections to the National Assembly shall be held under the proportional and majoritarian electoral systems. From a multi-mandate constituency covering the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia ninety deputies shall be elected under the proportional electoral system from among candidates for deputies nominated by political parties (alliance of political parties) in the electoral lists, and forty-one deputies shall be elected under the majoritarian electoral system — one deputy from each constituency.

39. In the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of the fifth convocation, formed as a result of the elections to the National Assembly held on 6 May 2012, the factions have been distributed in the following way:

Faction	*Number of deputies*	*Percentage ratio of the number of deputies*
Republican (RPA) [Hanrapetakan (HHK)] faction	70	53.4
Prosperous Armenia [Bargavach Hayastan] faction	36	27.5
Armenian National Congress [Hay Azgayin Kongres] faction	7	5.3
Rule of Law [Orinats Yerkir] faction	6	4.6
Armenian Revolutionary Federation [Hay Heghapokhakan Dashnaktsutiun] faction	5	3.8
Heritage [Zharangutyun] faction	4	3.1
Deputies not included in factions and deputy groups	3	2.3
Total	**131**	**100**

40. 14 women deputies (10% of the total number of deputies) were included in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of the fifth convocation, formed as a result of the elections to the National Assembly held on 6 May 2012.

Table 34. Distribution of men and women in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in 2006-2010, according to gender

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
	W	*M*	*W*	*M*	*W*	*M*	*W*	*M*	*W*	*M*
Total (persons)	7	124	12	118	11	120	12	119	12	119
Total (in percentages)	5	95	9	91	8	92	9	91	9	91

41. According to the data provided by the State Register Agency of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, as of 2013, 76 political parties have been registered and are operating in the Republic of Armenia, and three political parties are in the process of liquidation.

42. In the Republic of Armenia the executive power belongs to the Government, which shall develop and implement the internal policy of the Republic of Armenia. The Government shall develop and implement the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia together with the President of the Republic. All matters of State administration, which are not reserved by law to other state or local self-government bodies, shall fall within the competence of the Government. The Government shall comprise the Prime Minister and ministers. The Prime Minister shall manage the activities of the Government and coordinate the work of ministers.

43. Functions of the Government include ensuring implementation of the State budget; administration of State property; implementation of the unified State financial-economic, credit and tax policy; ensuring the implementation of defence, national security and foreign policy of the Republic; implementation of State policy in the areas of science, education, culture, healthcare, social security, and nature protection, etc.

44. The constitutional provisions pertaining to the judicial power in the Republic of Armenia are enshrined in Chapter 6 of the Constitution, which particularly defines that in the Republic of Armenia, justice shall be administered only by courts in compliance with the Constitution and laws.

45. In the Republic of Armenia there shall be courts of first instance of general jurisdiction, courts of appeal and the Court of Cassation, as well as, in cases provided by law, specialised courts. The highest judicial instance of the Republic of Armenia — except for matters of constitutional justice — shall be the Court of Cassation which is called to ensure the uniform application of law. Powers of the Court of Cassation shall be defined by the Constitution and by law. Establishment of ad hoc courts shall be prohibited.

46. In the Republic of Armenia the constitutional justice shall be administered by the Constitutional Court, which shall determine the compliance of laws, decisions of the National Assembly, decrees of the President of the Republic, decisions of the Government, Prime Minister, local self-government bodies with the Constitution. Prior to ratification of an international treaty, the Constitutional Court shall determine the compliance of commitments enshrined therein with the Constitution. In addition, settlement of the disputes concerning the results of referenda, as well as settlement of the disputes concerning the decisions on the results of elections of the President of the Republic and deputies are also reserved to the Constitutional Court.

47. The Council of Justice shall be formed and shall act as prescribed by the Constitution and by law. It shall comprise nine judges, elected as prescribed by law by the General Assembly of Judges of the Republic of Armenia by a secret vote for a term of five years; the President of the Republic and the National Assembly shall each appoint two academic lawyers.

48. The Council of Justice shall prepare the list of candidates for judges and official promotion lists of judges and submit them to the President of the Republic for approval, on the basis of which appointments are made. The Constitutional Court shall impose disciplinary liability on judges, submit proposal to the President of the Republic for consent on terminating the powers of a judge, detaining him or her, involving him or her as an accused or subjecting him or her to administrative liability through judicial procedure.

49. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court shall be irremovable. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court shall serve the office until attaining the age of sixty-five. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court shall be independent when administering justice, and shall be governed only by the Constitution and by law.

50. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court may not be detained, involved as an accused, nor may a matter on subjecting them to administrative liability through judicial procedure be initiated, without the consent of the Council of Justice or the Constitutional Court, respectively. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court may not be arrested, except for cases when the arrest is effected at the moment of committing a crime or immediately thereafter. In such cases, the President of the Republic and the Chairperson of the Court of Cassation or the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, respectively, shall be promptly informed about the arrest.

51. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court may not engage in entrepreneurial activities, hold a position not related to their responsibilities in State or local self-government bodies or a position in commercial organisations, carry out other paid work except for scientific, pedagogical and creative work. Judges and members of the Constitutional Court may not be members to any party or engage in political activities.

52. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the church is separate from the State in the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, the Constitution prescribes that "The Republic of Armenia recognises the exclusive mission of the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church, as a national church, in the spiritual life of the Armenian people, in the development of their national culture and preservation of their national identity." The special relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church are regulated by the law adopted in 2007, the possibility of which is provided for by the Constitution.

53. Article 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia prescribes, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to change religion or belief, and freedom — either individually or in community with others — to manifest them in preaching, church ceremonies and other rites of worship. Manifestation of this right may be limited only by law, where it is necessary to protect the public safety, health, morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

54. In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, elections of the President of the Republic, to the National Assembly and local self-government bodies shall be held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.

55. In the Republic of Armenia citizens having attained the age of eighteen shall have the right to vote. Persons not holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may take part in elections of local self-government bodies. According to article 2(1) of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia, persons not holding the citizenship of the Republic of

Armenia shall have the right to vote at local self-government elections in case of being, prior to the voting day, registered for at least six months in the population register of the community where elections are held.

56. According to the preliminary lists of the 2013 presidential elections of the Republic of Armenia, there were 2 510 887 voters (83% of the total number of the population), of which 1 166 303 were males and 1 344 584 were females.

57. The number of persons not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and with the right to vote was 7 758 voters on 5 September 2013 (0.25% of the total number of the population).

58. In the past five years the regular elections of the President of the Republic have been held within the time limits defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, that is on 18 February 2013 and on 19 February 2008. In the same period, the regular elections to the National Assembly were also held in the time limit defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia that is on 6 May 2012 and on 12 May 2007.

59. According to article 145(1) of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 26 May 2011 the voting days of regular elections of the local self-government bodies shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission for each year. For the year 2012, the voting days of regular elections of the local self-government bodies were set on 12 February, 8 July, 9 September and 23 September, clearly observing the time limits defined for holding the regular elections of local self-government bodies by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and the electoral legislation of the Republic of Armenia. No violations of the time limits for calling and holding elections to local self-government bodies were recorded in 2008.

Table 35. Participation of the population in the 2007 elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and in the 2008 presidential elections of the Republic of Armenia, according to administrative-territorial division

	2007			*2008*		
Marz	*Total number of voters*	*Number of participants in the voting*	*Participation (%)*	*Total number of voters*	*Number of participants in the voting*	*Participation (%)*
Yerevan	751 083	403 [illegible]	53.69	763 708	540 630	70.79
Aragatsotn	99 238	70 268	70.81	105 137	71 915	68.4
Ararat	191 832	128 954	67.22	194 357	142 341	73.24
Armavir	201 463	120 957	60.04	204 947	138 716	67.68
Gegharkunik	173 041	109 786	63.45	176 466	136 658	77.44
Lori	224 029	133 135	59.43	226 579	152 037	67.1
Kotayk	210 191	132 026	62.81	214 489	155 528	72.51
Shirak	212 980	118 692	55.73	215 810	138 268	64.07
Syunik	105 799	74 286	70.21	117 801	89 074	75.61
Vayots Dzor	45 133	32 019	70.94	45 743	32 819	71.75
Tavush	104 933	68 133	64.93	105 744	73 041	69.07
Total	**2 319 722**	**1 391 540**	**59.99**	**2 370 781**	**1 671 027**	**70.48**

Table 36. Participation of the population in the 2012 elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, in the 2012 elections to local self-government bodies and in the 2013 presidential elections of the Republic of Armenia, according to administrative-territorial division

	2012			*2012 LSB*			*2013*		
Marz	*Total number of voters*	*Number of participants in the voting*	*Participation (%)*	*Total number of voters*	*Number of participants in the voting*	*Participation (%)*	*Total number of voters*	*Number of participants in the voting*	*Participation (%)*
Yerevan	814 225	483 263	59.35	-	-	-	824 859	445 725	54.04
Aragatsotn	113 690	78 918	69.42	104 708	63 111	60.27	114 323	72 769	63.65
Ararat	212 317	149 389	70.36	197 040	102491	52.02	213 038	157 927	74.13
Armavir	222 641	125 092	56.19	219 604	101746	46.33	224 622	128 637	57.27
Gegharkunik	185 981	122 785	66.02	170 767	88 728	51.96	186 456	128 881	69.12
Lori	236 441	140 006	59.21	227 437	115001	50.56	237 494	143 318	60.35
Kotayk	231 710	150 453	64.93	231 185	108596	46.97	232 594	138 231	59.43
Shirak	228 732	131 644	57.55	223 149	99 442	44.56	229 265	132 939	57.98
Syunik	121 433	87 892	72.38	101 578	61 808	60.85	109 384	71 979	65.8
Vayots Dzor	47 412	31 748	66.96	43 690	26 873	61.51	47 227	29 577	62.63
Tavush	108 324	71 668	66.16	86 924	53 250	61.26	108 560	71 278	65.66
Total	**2522906**	**1572858**	**62.34**	**1606082**	**821046**	**51.12**	**2527822**	**1521261**	**60.18**

60. The legal norms on the activities of non-governmental organisations in the Republic of Armenia are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia, the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On non-governmental organisations" and "On State registration of legal persons", as well as in international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

61. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On non-governmental organisations" having entered into force on 27 December 2001 regulates legal relations arising while exercising the constitutionally enshrined human right to form associations with other persons and join them in the Republic of Armenia, in relation to the establishment, activities, reorganisation and liquidation of non-governmental organisations.

62. Article 3 of the Law defines the concept of a "non-governmental organisation", according to which a non-governmental organisation is a type of not-for-profit organisation not distributing the received profit among the participants (non-commercial organisation), that is a non-governmental association, in which natural persons, that is, citizens of the Republic of Armenia, foreign nationals, stateless persons have joined, as prescribed by law, on the basis of commonality of their interests with the purpose to satisfy their non-religious spiritual or other non-material needs, to protect their and others' rights and interests, to provide material and non-material support to the public, its individual groups, to carry out other activities to the benefit of the public.

63. The human right to form associations shall include the right to freely establish an association with others, to join it (participate in it), to take part in its activities and to withdraw without hindrance from membership (participation) irrespective of nationality, race, gender, language, religion, political or other views, social origin, property or other status and citizenship. This right may, in cases and under the procedure prescribed by law, be restricted for officers serving in the armed forces and law-enforcement bodies.

64. An association may obtain State registration as a non-governmental organisation acquiring a status of a legal person from the moment of registration. State registration of an association, ensuring fulfilment of purposes of the association though formation of a legal person, shall not restrict the human right to form associations as regards forming such associations, carrying out activities through them without State registration.

65. According to data provided by the State Register Agency of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, 5 512 non-governmental organisations have been registered in the Republic of Armenia.

Indicators on crime and the administration of justice

Table 37. Number and share of murders and life threatening crimes to life

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Murders	78	2.4	68	2.1	41	1.3	60	1.8	50	1.5
Number of persons subjected to criminal liability for murder	56	1.7	66	2.0	44	1.4	38	1.3	37	1.2
Including: Women	3	0.1	5	0.2	2	0.1	1	0.03	0	0.0
Juveniles	2	0.1	1	0.03	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Previously convicted	16	0.5	17	0.5	3	0.1	5	0.2	7	0.2
Attempt of murder	30	0.9	29	0.9	27	0.8	29	0.9	25	0.8
Number of persons subjected to criminal liability for an attempt of murder	14	0.4	25	0.8	27	0.8	29	1.0	21	0.7
Including: Women	0	0.0	1	0.03	1	0.03	1	0.03	0	0.0
Juveniles	1	0.03	0	0.0	1	0.03	0	0.0	1	0.03
Previously convicted	3	0.1	2	0.1	5	0.2	8	0.3	2	0.1

Table 38. Persons and rate (per 100,000 persons) arrested, brought before a court and convicted for violence and other grave crimes

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Number of arrested	1390	43.0	1723	53.1	1637	50.3	1403	46.5	1228	40.6
Number of convicts	2629	81.3	3219	99.2	3686	113.3	3279	108.7	2863	94.7
Number of persons sentenced to imprisonment	1326	41.0	2025	62.4	2118	65.1	2039	67.6	1549	51.2

		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
		Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Including:	Murder	44	1.4	58	1.8	43	1.3	33	1.1	26	0.9
	Larceny	50	1.5	52	1.6	61	1.9	62	2.1	50	1.7
	Robbery	59	1.8	72	2.2	101	3.1	83	2.8	58	1.9
	Smuggling	25	0.8	54	1.7	54	1.7	37	1.2	12	0.4

Table 39. Registered cases of sexually motivated violence and persons subjected to criminal liability

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Crimes against sexual integrity and sexual freedom	63	1.9	73	2.2	82	2.5	71	2.2	105	3.2
Rape	15	0.5	15	0.5	11	0.3	10	0.3	14	0.4
Number of persons subjected to criminal liability for rape	11	0.3	12	0.4	10	0.3	8	0.3	5	0.2
Including: Women	1	0.03	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Juveniles	0	0.0	1	0.03	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Previously convicted	3	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0

66. According to article 138(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, in the Republic of Armenia the period for keeping the accused under detention (detaining) during the pre-trial proceeding for criminal cases may not be more than two months. According to part 4 of the same article, the mentioned two-month period, taking into consideration the particular complexity of the case, may be extended up to six months by the court, and in exceptional cases, when the person is charged with grave or particularly grave crime, up to 12 months. Therefore, the total minimum duration of detention selected as a measure of restraint for the accused amounts to two months, the total maximum duration — up to one year. In the past five years, the minimum duration of detention selected as a measure of restraint for one case has been eight days, and the maximum duration for 14 cases has been up to one year.

Table 40. Persons sentenced to imprisonment, according to periods of imprisonment

	2008		*2009*		*2010*		*2011*		*2012*	
	Total	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*
One year inclusive	287	8.87	320	9.89	653	20.19	620	19.17	613	18.95
More than one year, up to two years inclusive	288	8.9	292	9.03	828	25.60	636	19.67	444	13.73
More than two years, up to three years inclusive	311	9.6	293	9.06	661	20.44	565	17.47	386	11.94
More than three years, up to five years inclusive	317	9.8	387	11.97	544	16.82	458	14.16	517	15.99
More than five years, up to eight years inclusive	148	4.6	198	6.12	289	8.94	226	6.99	173	5.35
More than eight years, up to ten years inclusive	58	1.8	58	1.79	75	2.32	63	1.95	20	0.62
More than ten years, up to 15 years inclusive	24	0.7	39	1.21	54	1.67	45	1.39	39	1.21
Life imprisonment	5	0.2	13	0.40	12	0.37	3	0.09	1	0.03
Total	**1438**	**44.5**	**1600**	**49.47**	**3116**	**96.35**	**2616**	**80.89**	**2193**	**67.81**

Table 41. Persons convicted for violence and other grave crimes

	2008		*2009*		*2010*		*2011*		*2012*	
	Total	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*	*Total*	*Per 100,000 persons and residents*
Smuggling	34	1.1	49	1.5	58	1.8	61	1.9	44	1.4
Racketeering	3	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Intentional murder	59	1.8	56	1.7	76	2.4	50	1.5	43	1.3
Murder in excess of necessary defence	6	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.0
Murder by negligence	8	0.2	0	0.0	7	0.2	8	0.2	3	0.1
Intentional grave bodily injury	110	3.4	129	4.0	148	4.6	110	3.4	95	2.9
Intentional bodily injury of medium gravity	29	0.9	37	1.1	19	0.6	33	1.0	26	0.8
Rape	12	0.4	11	0.3	8	0.2	2	0.1	12	0.4
Use of violence against representative of the authorities	0	0.0	53	1.6	51	1.6	57	1.8	37	1.1
Battery	0	0.0	16	0.5	44	1.4	31	1.0	56	1.7
Kidnapping	0	0.0	37	1.1	62	1.9	48	1.5	48	1.5
Larceny	91	2.8	64	2.0	94	2.9	67	2.1	67	2.1

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Robbery	66	2.0	59	1.8	94	2.9	72	2.2	37	1.1
Theft	632	19.5	693	21.4	913	28.2	781	24.1	584	18.1
Fraud	85	2.6	150	4.6	219	6.8	152	4.7	134	4.1
Embezzlement or Peculation	42	1.3	74	2.3	87	2.7	74	2.3	56	1.7
Hooliganism	276	8.5	353	10.9	420	13.0	480	14.8	299	9.2
Crimes related to narcotic drugs	429	13.3	520	16.1	626	19.4	492	15.2	532	16.5
Illegal carrying, storage, making, acquisition or sales of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances	85	2.6	79	2.4	104	3.2	52	1.6	78	2.4
Total number of convicts	**3145**	**97.2**	**3580**	**110.7**	**4402**	**136.1**	**3940**	**121.8**	**3727**	**115.2**

Table 42. Morbidity rates of persons under custody

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	17	48	35	29

67. No one has been executed in the Republic of Armenia since 1990, since there had been a moratorium for the death penalty. The provision relating to the imposition of the death penalty as a punishment has been removed from the new criminal code adopted in August 2003. In September of the same year, Armenia ratified Protocol No 6 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning the abolition of the death penalty. Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, supplemented in November 2005, defines that "Everyone shall have the right to life. No one may be sentenced to death penalty or be executed". In May 2006, Armenia signed Protocol No. 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

Table 43. Number and share of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Armenia

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents	Total	Per 100,000 persons and residents
Number of prosecutors	333	10.3	333	10.3	333	10.2	333	11.0	333	11.0
Number of judges	216	6.7	216	6.7	211	6.5	215	7.1	215	7.1

Table 44. Share of accused and detained persons who have appealed for and received free of charge legal aid

2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
Persons	*Per 100.000 persons and residents*	*Persons*	*Per 100.000 persons and residents*	*Persons*	*Per 100.000 persons and residents*	*Persons*	*Per 100.000 persons and residents*	*Persons*	*Per 100.000 persons and residents*
2051	63.4	2213	68.2	2415	74.3	2722	90.3	2458	81.3

Table 45. Cases admitted to and completed in the courts of the Republic of Armenia

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
Number of criminal, civil and administrative cases received	57648	59301	63004	66333
Of which completed	40102	41399	39794	43901
Number of cases appealed in the Court of Appeal of the Republic of Armenia	4507	4844	6916	7300
Of which completed	3918	4278	6106	6244

Table 46. Funds allocated to the Police, National Security, courts and the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia from the 2008–2012 State Budget of the Republic of Armenia (in million drams)

	2008		*2009*		*2010*	
	Actual State budget	*Relative weight in total expenditures (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Relative weight in total expenditures (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Relative weight in total expenditures (%)*
Expenditures, total	**810,574.5**	**100.0%**	**929,108.6**	**100.0%**	**954,316.5**	**100.0%**
Including:						
social order, security and judicial activity	61,706.5	7.6%	69,463.8	7.5%	67,443.1	7.1%
Including:						
Police	29,418.57	3.6%	34,047.20	3.7%	34,111.32	3.6%
National security	12,597.30	1.6%	12,804.62	1.4%	11,935.10	1.3%
Courts	6,947.75	0.9%	9,817.24	1.1%	8,792.40	0.9%
Prosecutor's Office	2,497.78	0.3%	2,638.63	0.3%	2,664.84	0.3%

	2011		2012	
	Actual State budget	*Relative weight in total expenditures (%)*	*Actual State budget*	*Relative weight in total expenditures (%)*
Expenditures, total	**986,509.2**	**100.0%**	**1,006,102.2**	**100.0%**
Including:				
Social order, security and judicial activity	72,517.1	7.4%	76,668.6	7.6%
Including:				
Police	35,664.78	3.6%	39,819.38	4.0%
National security	12,701.24	1.3%	13,452.37	1.3%
Courts	9,446.33	1.0%	8,163.27	0.8%
Prosecutor's Office	2,834.76	0.3%	2,801.18	0.3%

II. General framework for the protection and promotion of human rights

A. Acceptance of international human rights norms

1. Main international human rights conventions and protocols

68. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following main international human rights conventions and protocols:

(a) CAT – Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (13 September 1993)

(b) CAT-OP – Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (14 September 2006)

(c) CCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (23 June 1993)

(d) CED – Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (24 January 2011)

(e) CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (13 September 1993)

(f) CERD – International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (23 June 1993)

(g) CESCR – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (13 September 1993)

(h) CMW – International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (signature 26 September 2013)

(i) CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child (23 June 1993)

(j) CRC-OP-SC – Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography (30 June 2005)

(k) CRC-OP-AC – Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (30 September 2005). Armenia made a declaration[4]

(l) CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (22 September 2010).

2. Acceptance of individual complaints procedures for Armenia

69. The Republic of Armenia has accepted the following individual complaints procedures:

- CCPR-OP1 – Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (23 June 1993)
- CEDAW-OP – Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (14 September 2006)
- CESCR-OP – Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (signed 29 September 2009)
- CRPD-OP – Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (signed 30 March 2007).

3. Other United Nations human rights and related conventions

70. The Republic of Armenia has ratified also several other United Nations conventions and documents in relation to human rights:

(a) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948

(b) Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951, and its 1967 Protocol

(c) Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954

(d) Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961

(e) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and its Protocols against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, and to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children

[4] Text of the declaration: "According to Article 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia Every citizen shall participate in the defence of the Republic of Armenia in a manner prescribed by law. Participation of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia in the defence of the country is regulated by the laws of the Republic of Armenia on Military Duty (15 September 1998) and on Performance of Military Service (3 June 2002). According to Article 4, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the law of the Republic of Armenia on "Performance of Military Service", "the military service consists of active and reserve military services; the active military service consists of obligatory and contractual military service. Obligatory military service means the military service of ranks and officers called up to the armed forces or other forces and of cadets of military schools". According to Article 11, paragraph 1, of the law of the Republic of Armenia on "Military Duty", male conscripts aged between 18 and 27 and reserve officers of the first group assessed as fit for military service in peace time according to their state of health are required for military service". Based on the above-mentioned laws, the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, who have attained the age of 18, are required to serve in the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia; the Republic of Armenia guarantees that those citizens who have not yet attained the age of 18 cannot be called upon for either obligatory or contractual (voluntary) military service."

(f) Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2000

(g) Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2001.

71. The Republic of Armenia has signed the Charter of the International Criminal Court. However, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, by its decision of 13 August 2004, suspended the ratification process, finding that certain provisions of the Charter contradict the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

4. Conventions of the International Labour Organization

72. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following conventions adopted within the framework of the International Labour Organization and relating to human rights:

(a) Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921 (No. 14)

(b) Forced or Compulsory Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

(c) Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)

(d) Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

(e) Migration for Employment Convention, 1949 (No. 97)

(f) Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

(g) Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)

(h) Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

(i) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

(j) Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)

(k) Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131)

(l) Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132)

(m) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

(n) Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)

(o) Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151)

(p) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

5. Conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

73. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education, 1960.

6. Conventions of the Hague Conference on Private International Law

74. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following conventions adopted within the framework of the Hague Conference on Private International Law:

(a) Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1973

(b) Convention on International Access to Justice, 1980

(c) Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993

(d) Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, 1996.

7. Geneva Conventions and Other Treaties on International Humanitarian Law

75. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following Geneva Conventions and treaties on international humanitarian law:

(a) Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 1949

(b) Geneva Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 1949

(c) Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 1949

(d) Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949

(e) Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 1977

(f) Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 1977.

8. Conventions Adopted within the Framework of the Council of Europe, and relating to human rights

76. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following conventions adopted within the framework of the Council of Europe, and relating to human rights:

(a) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (amended by Protocol No. 11), 1950

(b) Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (amended by Protocol No. 11), 1952

(c) Protocol No. 2 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, conferring upon the European Court of Human Rights competence to give Advisory Opinions, 1963

(d) Protocol No. 3 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, amending articles 29, 30 and 34 of the Convention, 1963

(e) Protocol No. 4 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, securing certain rights and freedoms other than those already included in the Convention and in the first Protocol thereto, 1963

(f) Protocol No. 5 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, amending articles 22 and 40 of the Convention, 1966

(g) Protocol No. 6 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning the abolition of the death penalty, 1983

(h) Protocol No. 7 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (amended by Protocol No. 11), 1984

(i) Protocol No. 8 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1985

(j) European Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1987

(k) European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, 1992

(l) Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1993

(m) Protocol No. 2 to the European Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1993

(n) Protocol No. 11 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Restructuring the Control Machinery Established Thereby, 1994

(o) Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, 1995

(p) Sixth Protocol to the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe, 1996

(q) European Social Charter (revised), 1996

(r) Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 2000

(s) Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems, 2003

(t) Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms amending the control system of the Convention, 2004

(u) Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005.

9. Treaties Adopted within the Framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and relating to human rights

77. The Republic of Armenia has ratified the following treaties adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and relating to human rights:

(a) Treaty on Cooperation between the CIS Member States in the Fight against Trade in Human Beings, Organs and Tissues of Human Origin, 2006

(b) Treaty on Cooperation between the Ministries of Interior (Police) of the CIS Member States in the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings, 2010.

B. Legal framework for the protection of human rights at the national level

78. The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, amended through a referendum on 2005, fully enshrines the human rights prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950.

79. According to article 43 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, fundamental human and citizen's rights and freedoms enshrined by the Constitution may be restricted

only by law where it is necessary in a democratic society for the protection of State security, public order, for the prevention of crimes, for the protection of public health and morals, constitutional rights and freedoms, honour and good reputation of others. However, according to the Constitution, the aforementioned restrictions of fundamental human and citizen's rights and freedoms may not exceed the scope laid down under international commitments of the Republic of Armenia.

80. Article 44 of the Constitution prescribes that certain fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms may be temporarily limited in the manner prescribed by law, in case of martial law or state of emergency within the scope of the assumed international commitments on derogating from commitments in cases of emergency. Such restrictions don't cover the rights referred to in articles 15 (right to freedom), 17 to 22 (inadmissibility of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and fair trial), and 42 (fundamental human and citizen's rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, which are without prejudice to other rights and freedoms prescribed by laws and international treaties) of the Constitution.

81. According to article 3 of the Constitution, the human being, his or her dignity and the fundamental human rights and freedoms are an ultimate value, which are under State protection in accordance with the principles and norms of international law. The State shall be bound by fundamental human and citizen's rights and freedoms as directly applicable law.

82. According to article 18 of the Constitution, everyone shall – for the protection of his or her rights and freedoms – have the right to effective judicial remedies, as well as effective legal remedies before other State bodies and the right to receive – on the grounds and as prescribed by law – the assistance of the Human Rights Defender for the protection of his or her rights and freedoms.

83. Everyone shall, in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, have the right to apply – with regard to the protection of his or her rights and freedoms – to international bodies for protection of human rights and freedoms. In this regard article 241 of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia enshrines the right to apply to the international court. Thus every person, who finds that his or her right (rights) provided for by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia has been infringed by the final judicial decision relating to him or her adopted in a civil case, shall have the right to apply to an international court participated by the Republic of Armenia and having the jurisdiction to hear civil cases. A judicial act, which has been delivered by a court of first instance and has entered into legal force, which is not subject to appeal, which has been delivered by the civil court of appeal of the Republic of Armenia and entered into force, which excludes the commencement and continuation of the case, as well as which resolves the case on the merits, shall be considered a final judicial act.

84. The right to apply to the international court arises after the entry into force of the final judicial decision from the moment prescribed by the regulations of the relevant international court. The circle of persons entitles to apply to international court shall be defined by the international court regulations.

85. Article 103 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia defines that every convict shall have the right to – in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Armenia – apply to interstate bodies of protection of human rights and freedoms, where all the measures of legal protection provided for by criminal procedure legislation are exhausted.

86. The Republic of Armenia has been a State party to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms since 26 April 2002. By becoming a member, the Republic of Armenia has adopted the jurisdiction of the European Court of

Human Rights, which covers all the issues referring the interpretation and implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the Protocols attached thereto.

Table 47. General statistics on decisions on cases against the Republic of Armenia in the European Court of Human Rights in 2002–2012 according to the kind of decision and the kind of violation of the right enshrined by the Convention

Judgement	*Number of Decisions*
Judgments finding at least one violation	42
Judgments finding no violation	2
Friendly settlements / Striking-out judgments	-
Other judgments	2
Total number of judgments	46

Article	*Number of judgements*
Right to life – deprivation of life	-
Prohibition of torture	1
Inhuman or degrading treatment	7
Lack of efficient investigation	1
Prohibition of slavery / forced labour	-
Right to liberty and security	20
Right to a fair trial	16
Length of proceedings	-
Non-enforcement	1
No punishment without law	-
Right to respect for private and family life	1
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	3
Freedom of expression	1
Freedom of assembly and association	7
Right to marry	-
Right to an effective remedy	1
Prohibition of discrimination	1
Protection of property	7
Right to education	-
Right to free elections	1
Right not to be tried or punished twice	-
Other articles of the Convention	9

87. In 2004 the Institute of Human Rights Defender was founded in Armenia, the activity of which has also been enshrined by the Constitution as a result of the Amendments to the Constitution of 2005. Thus, article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia – for the protection of the rights enshrined by the generally recognised rules of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and international law – provides the right to assistance of the Human Rights Defender.

88. According to article 83.1 of the Constitution, the National Assembly shall elect the Human Rights Defender for a term of six years by at least three-fifth of votes of the total number of deputies. A person enjoying high reputation among the public, who satisfies the requirements laid down for deputies, may be elected as Human Rights Defender.

89. According to article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Human Right Defender", Human Right Defender is an independent and unaltered official, who is charged with protecting human rights and freedoms that have been violated by State and local self-government bodies and officials thereof, based on the fundamental principles of lawfulness, social cohabitation, and social justice.

90. Article 9 of the Law prescribes that a complaint must be lodged to the Defender within a year from the day the applicant knew or should have known about the violation of his or her rights and fundamental freedoms. Article 11 of the Law prescribes that the Defender shall, on receiving the complaint, take a decision on examining the complaint, presenting to the applicant the opportunities of protection of his or her rights and freedoms, refusing to examine the complaint, or, upon the consent of the person who has lodged the complaint, on transferring the complaint to the State bodies, local self-government body or to the official thereof, who is competent to resolve the complaint on the merits.

91. The Defender shall not examine those complaints, which must only be resolved judicially, as well as shall terminate examination of the complaint where the interested person brings an action or appeal before the court after the examination has started. While taking a decision on examining the complaint, the Defender shall be obliged to explain to the applicant the procedure for the examination of the complaint provided for by law. The Defender shall send the copy of the decision taken to the applicant as soon as possible, not later than within 30 days from the day the complaint was received.

92. The State or local self-government body or the official thereof, the decisions and actions (inactions) of which are appealed, may not carry out the study of the issues mentioned in the complaint.

93. The Defender shall have the power to start the discussion of the issue on his or her own initiative, especially in those cases when there is an information on mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms or it has an exclusive public significance or is related to the need to protect the interest of the persons who are not able to apply legal remedies for their protection themselves.

C. Framework within which human rights are promoted at the national level

94. A number of State structures and substructures have been created, which aim to keep spotlight on issues concerning protection of human rights. It has already been mentioned that the foundation has been a significant step towards the regulated application and protection of human rights. The independence of the Defender shall be guaranteed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. In 2013 the International Ombudsman Association awarded the Institute of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia "A" class highest status, which proves the independence and objectivity of the Defender.

95. The Standing Committee on the Protection of Human Rights and Public Issues carries out an effective activity in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia by keeping the attention of the legislative power of the Republic of Armenia on the problems concerning human rights in Armenia by organising parliamentary hearings and discussions. Along with other functions, the core task of the Committee shall be the discussion and provision of opinions on adoption of legislative initiatives and ratification of international

treaties with regard to human rights, as well as on allocations of the State budget of the Republic of Armenia with regard to human rights.

96. The Council on Women's Issues under the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has been operating since 2000, with a view to coordinate activities for the solution of key women related issues in Armenia. The most prominent female figures of executive and legislative powers, as well as of NGOs, creative unions, and of the cultural sphere are involved in the composition of the Council.

97. National Minority Coordinating Council founded by the executive order of the President of the Republic of Armenia has been operating since 2000, which aims to promote and protect rights and freedoms of national minorities in Armenia, as well as to carry out discussion, analysis and preparation of recommendations of legal acts related to this sphere. The Council is to ensure protection of rights of national minorities, to boost their inter-community relations as well as to promote the effectiveness of State care with regard to special educational and cultural, legal, and other issues. Members of the Council are two representatives nominated from among 11 national minorities residing in the Republic of Armenia.

98. The Department for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Armenia was established 2004. This structural subdivision participates in drawing up the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, exercises the functions of the body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia regulating the relations between the State and religious organisations as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations", as well as ensuring the protection of traditions of persons belonging to the national minorities and their right to the development of language and culture.

99. Public Council was established by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia in 2008, which also focuses its attention on issues concerning human rights Thus, the Committees on Civil Society Development, on National Minorities, on Demographic and Gender Affairs, as well as on Religion, Diaspora and International Integration Affairs, relating to the issues of human rights in Armenia, operate under the Public Council, along with other committees. The Public Council has a status of an advisory body.

100. The civil society development is under process in Armenia. NGOs have been significantly active in the recent decade, with the opportunity to operate freely provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. NGOs directly promote the dissemination of human rights values and have a major contribution to the protection of these rights. Particularly, they are actively engaged in the issues concerning children, women, national minorities, young people, pensioners, disabled people, refugees and detainees. Many NGOs regularly carry out studies in the sphere of human rights protection, develop various preventive and public awareness programmes. At the same time State structures of the Republic of Armenia actively cooperate with representatives of the civil society and NGOs by engaging them in the activities of different advisory bodies, as well as organising joint discussions of different formats.

101. The Republic of Armenia pays attention to human rights education considering it as an important factor contributing to the development of democracy. Thus, since 2001, "Human Rights", as a separate subject, has been included in the general education curriculum and taught in the ninth grade. Students study also "Civic Education" and "State and Law" subjects.

102. Compulsory minimum requirements for the content of the general curriculum of law departments in higher educational institutions of Armenia include the following courses: Theory of State and Law, Norms of Law, Legality, History of State and Law of Foreign Countries, Constitutional Law, Constitutional Status of a Human and Citizen: their

Constitutional Rights, Freedoms and Duties, Constitutional Guarantees for their Realisation, Constitutional Law of Foreign Countries, International Law, International Security Law, Human Rights and International Law, and other similar courses.

103. Large-scale activities for studying human rights have been carried out not only for elaborating text books but also for training of teachers and professors. Moreover, NGOs have also had their contribution in these activities, for example the Armenian Human Rights School was set up by the Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre during the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2005), where 360 teachers have passed training courses in the past six years. The foundation of Human Rights Library Network supplements these activities. Since 2001, six human rights libraries have been set up as human rights education resource centres in different marzes. The "Human Rights" subject is also taught in higher education institutions of Armenia, including the Yerevan State University; UNESCO departments on human rights function as well.

104. The Government of the Republic of Armenia also emphasises the training of separate professional groups in this field, including civil servants of different State agencies, lawyers, employees of power structures (Police of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia), judges, etc. International fundamental instruments on human rights are taken as a basis for educational programmes, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the two international covenants.

105. The Government of the Republic of Armenia carries out public awareness raising policy on human rights by cooperating with representatives of international organisations and civil society. The Government strives to promote the translation and dissemination process of international conventions. Thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has supported the publication activities of the collection of United Nations international documents on human rights providing officials translation of the documents.

106. Every year the budget of the Republic of Armenia allocates appropriate financial funds for the sphere of human rights protection. These financial funds are involved in the relevant expenditures allocated to State bodies and agencies. General and comprehensive statistics on funds allocated for the protection of human rights in the Republic of Armenia are unavailable.

Table 48. Funds allocated to the Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia from the State budget of the Republic of Armenia in 2010-2013

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
AMD (thousand)	125,433.6	163,100.5	173,894.8	176,613.6

D. Process of submitting national reports to international monitoring bodies

107. Preparation of National Reports according to the international liabilities of the Republic of Armenia takes place in accordance with the procedure approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1483-N of 23 November 2007.

108. A certain State administrative body shall be responsible for the preparation of each national report. Where the preparation of a national report derives from the liabilities prescribed by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, the State administrative body responsible for the implementation of the given international treaty shall be the responsible authority for the preparation of the report. Where the preparation of a national

report derives from the liabilities assumed within the framework of the international organisations with the participation of the Republic of Armenia, the governmental agency appointed in the manner prescribed by the President of the Republic of Armenia or the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall be the authority responsible for the preparation of the national report.

109. Inter-agency working groups or committees may be created, on an ad hoc basis, during the preparation of a report. The competent governmental agency may engage specialists, experts, and consultants in the preparation of a national report.

110. After drawing up the draft of the national report, the competent governmental agency shall agree with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and, where necessary, with other interested State administration bodies. After receiving opinions and summarising the report, the competent governmental agency shall submit the report to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

111. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1793-A of 15 December 2011 prescribes the list of State bodies responsible for the preparation of national reports and time limits for submitting them, as indicated:

International Document	*Authority Responsible for the National Report*
Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
Convention against Discrimination in Education	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia

International Document	*Authority Responsible for the National Report*
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (14 May 1954)	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia
Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 26 March 1999	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	The Department for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
European Social Charter (revised)	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

112. Non-governmental entities are also engaged in the preparation of national reports, particularly NGOs and representatives of civil society. Open discussions of special format are organised for this purpose, where the provisions of the given report are discussed. During these discussions the participants have the opportunity to represent their comments and recommendations, which are in most possible terms taken into account while elaborating the final version of the report.

113. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia undertakes and coordinates the elaboration activities for the follow-up reports. Stemming from the subject scope of the international document or convention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia compiles necessary information from the relevant government agencies of the Republic of Armenia and communicates them to the international monitoring bodies.

E. Other related human rights information

114. Upon becoming a member of the United Nations in 1992 and recognising the principles of universal values, human rights protection and democracy-building as an integral component of State ideology, Armenia has been actively involved in the activities launched within the framework of this world organisation and has cooperated with many structures and subdivisions of the organisation.

115. As a result of the selection process held in the United Nations in 2002, the Republic of Armenia was selected from among the group of Eastern European countries as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and was re-elected in 2004; moreover, in 2005-2006 the Armenian representative was the Vice Chairman of the Commission. This was primarily an eloquent evidence of international recognition and enhancing of the reputation of Armenia, especially in the sphere of human rights protection.

116. On 25 January 2001 Armenia became a full-fledged member of the Council of Europe and assumed relevant commitments to amend the legal system of the country and to adopt European values for human rights protection.

117. Programmes have been developed and carried out in the sphere of human rights, including the "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper", which was renamed as "Sustainable Development Programme" in 2008, the "Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan for 2011-2015", "2011-2015 Strategic Action Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence", "2004-2015 2004–2015 National Programme for the Protection of Children's Rights in the Republic of Armenia", " 2006-2015 Strategy of Social Protection of People with Disabilities", etc.

118. The Republic of Armenia has recorded sound achievements in the field of fight against trafficking. Various measures have been carried out with regard to the prevention of trafficking, as well as support and protection of victims. The fourth National Program on Combating Trafficking in the Republic of Armenia for the period of 2013-2015 has been approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 186-N of 28 February 2013. Armenia was, as a country fully combating trafficking, included in the Tier 1 in the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report 2013 published by the United States Department of State in June of the same year.

119. On 30 June 2012, the President of the Republic of Armenia approved the "2012-2016 Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms in the Republic of Armenia and the List of Activities Stemming from the Programme". The main purpose of the Programme is to ensure a legal system and judicial power that complies with the standards for a modern legal State. The programme includes areas such as particularly criminal, civil and administrative justice, judicial system, prosecutor's office, areas of services delivered to citizens, where legislative, as well as law enforcement measures are envisaged for the solution of problems existing in each of them.

120. 165. On 29 October 2012, the President of the Republic of Armenia approved "National Strategy on Human Rights Protection", the adoption of which is framed by the need to ensure joint and comprehensive policy in the sphere of human rights protection. The Strategy pursues the following main purposes: (1) definition of the concept provisions for a consistent and coordinated State policy aimed at the protection and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and an increase of human rights protection by implementing them; (2) improvement of conditions for the exercise of fundamental civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights of every person under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the international and bilateral liabilities assumed by the Republic of Armenia; (3) ensuring operative and efficient mechanisms for the protection of human rights and freedoms of every person under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Armenia; (4) improvement of the current legislation and ensuring the proper implementation thereof in accordance with the international standards; (5) rise in public awareness on human rights and protection methods thereof; promotion of protection of one's own rights by State and local self-government bodies, officials, as well as by wider society and citizens; (6) strengthening public confidence in the State authorities and increase of social unity, (7) strengthening capacities of the Institute of Human Rights Defender, as well as human rights organisations (8) clarification of issues and needs of socially vulnerable groups and undertaking efficient measures for ensuring their rights; (9) active engagement of civil society institutions in the implementation of activities regarding the strategic aims; (10) Increasing the effectiveness of the activity of NGOs, as well as their cooperation with State and local self-government bodies, etc.

121. The Republic of Armenia consistently implements the decisions adopted at the largest international conferences on human rights, as well as, upon necessity, makes follow-up reports. Among the conferences mentioned, the following should be distinguished: the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing platform), World Conference on Human

Rights (Vienna, 1993), United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Millennium Summit (Millennium Development Goals), etc.

III. Information on non-discrimination and equality

122. A respective legislative framework has been created in the Republic of Armenia to ensure equality of all before the law and to exclude discrimination towards the vulnerable groups in Armenia.

123. Article 14.1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia enshrines the equality of all before the law by prescribing that discrimination based on gender, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic peculiarities, language, religion, ideology, political or other views, membership to a national minority, property status, birth, disability, age or other personal or social circumstances shall be prohibited.

124. The principles enshrined in the above mentioned point are guaranteed by the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and the Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia. Crimes against constitutional human and citizen's rights and freedoms are criminalised under Chapter 19 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, article 143 of which (amended on 5 February 2013) prescribes that indirect or direct violation of human and citizen's rights and freedoms on the ground of gender, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion, world outlook, political or other views, membership to a national minority, property status, birth, disability, age or other circumstances of personal or social nature which have harmed human and citizen's rights and lawful interests, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment.

125. Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Citizenship" prescribes that citizens of the Republic of Armenia shall be equal before the law irrespective of grounds for acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, nationality, race, gender, language, belief, political or other views, social origin, property or other status.

126. In 2013 the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men", which prescribes the guarantees for ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men in political, social, economic, cultural and other fields of public life and covers the relations arising therefrom.

127. The Republic of Armenia has acceded to almost all international treaties on discrimination, which constitute an integral part of the legal system of the Republic of Armenia and have supremacy over the laws of the Republic of Armenia by virtue of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and laws of the Republic of Armenia "On International Treaties of the Republic of Armenia" and "On Legal Acts".